

Message Text

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20

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /118 W

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R 202217Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0365

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, PFOR

SUBJECT: CHILEAN INDEPENDENCE AND ARMY DAY CELEBRATIONS

REF: SANTIAGO 5660

1. THE GOC AND ALL SECTORS OF CHILEAN SOCIETY HAVE JUST FINISHED TWO LONG DAYS OF PATRIOTIC CELEBRATION WITHOUT A HITCH. IN UNIQUE YEAR, CELEBRATION OF INDEPENDENCE DAY (SEPT 18) AND DAY IN HONOR OF ARMY (SEPT 19) WAS TYPICALLY CHILEAN WITH HONORED GUESTS, FESTIVITIES, TE DEUM (REPORTED SEPT 18) AND MILITARY PARADE. SECURITY WAS NOTABLY LAX THROUGHOUT FESTIVITIES WITH NO KNOWN DISRUPTIVE INCIDENTS.

2. VISITING REPRESENTATIVES FROM NEIGHBORING LATAM COUNTRIES, LED BY PARAGUAYAN PRES STROESSNER (REPORTED SEPT 18), WERE ROYALLY TREATED, WITH VERY EXTENSIVE LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE GIVEN VISITORS. GOC SPARED NO EFFORT TO ENSURE GUESTS RECEIVED THE BEST POSSIBLE WELCOME.

3. BOTH DAYS WERE IMPRESSIVE FOR THE ENTHUSIASTIC AND GENUINE
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PATRIOTISM DISPLAYED, WITH LACK OF "POLITICAL" SPEECHES OR STATE-

MENTS. EVEN THOUGH NO MOTORIZED OR ARTILLERY EQUIPMENT WAS
DISPLAYED, MILITARY PARADE SEPT 19 WAS TOO LONG AND REPETITIOUS
FOR SOME SPECTATORS, BUT BEARING, DISCIPLINE, AND SPIRIT OF ALL
TROOPS WERE IMPRESSIVE. CARABINEROS (NATIONAL POLICE),
MARCHING FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 1929, AND MASSED INFANTRY OF
ELITE BUIN REGIMENT, RECEIVED WARMEST APPLAUSE. EVEN
POBLACIONES (SLUM SETTLEMENTS) WERE FULL OF FLAGS, AND CROWDS,
TO MUCH GREATER EXTENT THAN DURING SEPT 11 CELEBRATION, INVLUDED
PEASANTS AND LOWER CLASS CHILEANS.
POPPER

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